

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

1. INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's statement in the outstanding Office Action in which claims 5-7, 12-14, and 19 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 5-7 have been rewritten to include the limitations of independent claim 1; claims 12-14 have been rewritten to include the limitations of independent claim 8; and claim 19 has been rewritten to include the limitations of independent claim 15. Further, independent claim 20 has been rewritten to include features shared with claim 5, 12, and 19 which have been indicated as being allowable. Therefore, claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-23 should be allowed.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection to these claims are rendered moot. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

In that it is believed that every rejection and objection has been overcome in the present response, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

2. RESPONSE TO REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 15, 18, 20, 22, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Application Publication 2002/0122553 filed by Kao et al. (hereafter "*Kao*"). For the reasons stated above, the pending claims are patentable over the cited art and in condition for allowance.

3. RESPONSE TO REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 9, 16, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Kao* in view of U.S. Patent 5,166,979 issued to Takayama et al (hereafter "*Takayama*"). For the reasons stated above, the pending claims are patentable over the cited art and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this Response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel of Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles W. Griggers
Registration Number: 47,283

Thomas, Kayden, Horstemeyer & Risley, L.L.P.
100 Galleria Parkway, N.W.
Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5948
Phone: (770) 933-9500
Fax: (770) 951-0933